

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 SCCT-01

SY-04 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 NSAE-00 L-02 /033 W

----- 050591

R 160820Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, XF, PLO

SUBJ: VISA INELIGIBILITY: PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

REF: A) STATE 272384; B) STATE 284115

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY WAS IN PROCESS DRAFTING COMMENTS ON REF A WHEN REF B RECEIVED. TO SOME DEGREE, LATTER MESSAGE OBVIATES POINTS WE INTENDED MAKE. WE NEVERTHELESS CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT (A) TO REGISTER OUR BELIEF THAT TIMING AND HENCE SUBSTANCE INS DECISION REGARDING PLO VISA INELIGIBILITY IS UNFORTUNATE; (B) TO URGE CONTINUING REVIEW, AT LEAST TO POINT OF REFINEMENT, OF THAT DECISION;
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AND (C) TO SUGGEST SOME FURTHER WAYS IN WHICH WE BELIEVE DECISION'S

APPLICATION COULD BE EASED AND ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPACT REDUCED.
END SUMMARY.

2. FIVE YEARS AGO (OR EVEN TWO) THIS EMBASSY WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED, INDEED ADVOCATED (WITH NARROWLY DEFINED EXCEPTIONS), INS DECISION THAT MEMBERS PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS DELINIATED PARA 5, REF A SHOULD BE INELIGIBLE UNDER 212 (A) (28) (F) OF INA. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, REF A DECISION FIVE YEARS BEHIND TIMES, AND RENDERED AT PRECISE POLITICAL POINT IN TIME WHEN USG SHOULD BE FORMULATING MORE (INSTEAD OF LESS) DISCRIMINATING CRITERIA TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS WHO ADVOCATE TERRORISM AS MEANS OF ACHIEVING PALESTINIAN OBJECTIVES, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT.

3. SECRETARY HIMSELF HAS INDICATED THAT FEDAYEEN ORGS COULD BE ACCEPTED AS NEGOTIATING PARTNERS IF THEY ABANDON TERRORISM AND FRAME REALISTIC POLITICAL GOALS. US POLICY, TO BE CONSISTENT, SHOULD (LIKE THAT OF SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS) SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE SUCH TRENDS. PLO NOW INCREASINGLY REGARDED BY OFFICIALS HERE AS MOST "RESPONSIBLE" OF PAL ORGS. INS RULING, WHILE A FAIR REACTION TO TERRORIST SIDE OF PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT, WOULD SEEM TO BE OUT OF HARMONY WITH OUR BROAD POLITICAL PURPOSES. THEREFORE, THIS EMBASSY CONCURRED IN RECOMMENDATIONS AMMAN, BEIRUT, AND JERUSALEM THAT INS DECPB ON BE REVERSED.

4. REF B STATES SUCH ACTION NOT LIKELY FOR PRESENT. BUT WE HOPE THAT ISSUE WILL BE KEP UNDER ADVISEMENT AND THAT EXPERIENCE OF LIVING WITH DECISION WILL RESULT IN CHANGES AS APPROPRIATE. AT MINIMUM WE HOPE THAT DECISION CAN BE REFINED (MUCH AS HAS HAPPENED IN CASE OF APPLYING ANOTHER SUBSECTION THIS SAME ARTICLE TO CERTAIN "COMMUNIST" ORGANIZATIONS OVER YEARS) TO RESTORE ELIGIBILITY TO THOSE WHO IN OUR VIEW SHOULD CLEARLY NOT BE EXCLUDED. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WELCOME DEPT COMMITMENT (PARA 10 REF B) TO ESTABLISH CUT OFF DATES PRIOR TO WHICH MEMBERSHIP IN GIVEN ORGANIZATION WOULD NOT BE GROUNDS FOR INELIGIBILITY RULING. WE HOPE SUCH DATES CAN BE ESTABLISHED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. EVEN IF THEY INITIALLY ON CONSERVATIVE--I.E. EARLY--SIDE AND SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED, PROVISION OF CUT OFF WILL RECOGNIZE CHANGING CHARACTER OF PLO OVER YEARS AND MAKE INS DECISION MORE CONSIS TENT WITH BROADER POLITICAL GOALS.
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OTHER REFINEMENTS, SUCH AS RESTORING ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERS CERTAIN PLO ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS RED CRESCENT, DIVORCED FROM TERRORISM SHOULD LIKEWISE BE POSSIBLE.

5. BEYOND CONTINUING REVIEW AND POSSIBLE REFINEMENT OF BASIC DECISION, WE ALSO HOPE THAT MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY CAN BE INTRODUCED INTO ITS APPLICATION IN RECOGNITION THAT PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT IS CHANGING. SPECIFICALLY WE BELIEVE ADVERSE IMPACT COULD BE SUB-

STANTIALY REDUCED IF PROCESS OF GRANTING OF WAIVER OF INELIGIBILITY
FINDING CAN BE ACCELERATED TO PROVIDE RESPONSE WITHIN FIVE WORKING
DAY FRAMEWORK CURRENTLY APPLICABLE TO BOULDER PROCESS. IN SHORT
WE HOPE THAT INDIVIDUAL WHO SUOGPORTS PALESTINIAN GOALS THROUGH PEACE

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FUL MEANS--WHO, WHILE INELIGIBLE AS RESULT MEMBERSHIP IN ONE OF
PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS, HAS NO PERSONAL RECORD OF ADVOCATING
TERRORISM--CAN BE ISSUED VISA WITH MINIMUM DELAY (ALBEIT WITH
WAIVER NOTATION).
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